

*The EDITH and LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION of CANADIANA*



Queen's University at Kingston

No. 162 fs.

BANQUET TO GRADUATES OF MCGILL.

FRIDAY, April 2nd, 1880.

This social reunion was not intended to be public, but was merely a private entertainment given by the Principal, Dr. Dawson, on occasion of the 25th year of his term of office ; with the view, as stated in his card of invitation, of renewing old associations, of bringing before the members and friends of the University the results of their labours, of encouraging new efforts and securing more complete unity and co-operation. There are however some features of it in which the members of the University who were not so fortunate as to be present and the public generally may take an interest, and which do not fall within the request made that the proceedings should not be reported.

The invitations were of necessity limited to gentlemen on the lists of the University, and to a few representatives of other institutions of learning. Eight hundred and fifty cards of invitation were issued, beside those to the Graduating Class, about seventy in number. The result was that three hundred and sixty gentlemen sat down to a repast, provided by Mr. Alexander, at six long tables, filling the whole of the William Molson Hall, with the exception of a gallery prepared for ladies. The Hall had previously been decorated by the graduates and students for the Founder's Festival ; and these decorations, with some slight changes, remained, while the tables were liberally adorned with flowers. The guests assembled in the library, and were marshalled to the hall in order of University rank and of date of graduation, and when all were seated, the scene presented was one both novel and imposing.

Grace having been said by the Right Revd. Dr. Bond, the Bishop of Montreal, and sufficient time having been allowed for partaking of the refreshments furnished, and for conversation, Dr. Dawson addressed some words of welcome to his guests. The usual toasts were then duly honoured, including that of "the Lieutenant-Governor," who responded very cordially, and addresses were delivered

by representatives of the different bodies and interests connected with the University, and by representative of sister institutions. The topics were naturally those connected with the past history and present state of the University ; and the part which its Governors, Principal and Fellows, its Benefactors and its Graduates, had taken in elevating it to its present condition, and in advancing the interests of Education. As to the future, the evening was signalised by the announcement of the intention of Peter Redpath, Esq., one of the governors, to erect a costly and capacious museum building on the College grounds, and that of the Principal to place therein as a gift to the University his own large geological collections, and the further announcement that the Graduates propose to commemorate the twenty-fifth year of the Principal's tenure of office by the creation of a University fund or the erection of a University building to bear his name.

The speakers on points more directly relating to McGill, were the Hon. Judge Day, Chancellor; Mr. P. Redpath, Hon. Judge Dunkin, Dr. E. T. Meredith, Dr. Campbell, Prof. Trenholme, Dr. Johnson, Prof. Bovey, Mr. R. A. Ramsay, Dr. Chamberlin, Hon. Dr. Church, and Hon. Mr. Lynch. The addresses of these gentlemen were replete with reminiscences of the olden time, new to many of the younger auditors, as well as with auguries and projects for the future.

Of the original Board of Governors, under the New Charter, only four members now survive. One of them, Mr. Davidson, has resigned his office, having removed to Scotland. The three others were present; namely, the Chancellor, Hon. Senator Ferrier, and Hon. Judge Dunkin. Of these the senior in appointment is Mr. Ferrier, who was a member of the Board of Royal Institution under the Old Charter, and is consequently the oldest member of the governing body of the University. Rev. Archdeacon Leach, the senior member of the corps of Instructors, was prevented by illness from being present.

Of the graduates present nearly one hundred came from different parts of Canada and the United States to be present at the entertainment, while hundreds of others, unable to leave their homes sent letters breathing a spirit of warm affection for their *alma mater*. Among those present there were many who have attained to high positions in public and professional life. The Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Robitaille, is a medical graduate of 1858. The Hon. Mr. Lynch, his Solicitor General, is a Bachelor of Civil Law and Gold Medallist of 1868. The Hon. Dr. Church, late Treasurer of the province, and President of the Graduates' Society, is a medical graduate of 1857. A large number of other names might be mentioned

of men who in public and professional life, as ministers of religion, members of Parliament and other public bodies, professors and lecturers in McGill College and other institutes of higher learning, eminent physicians and lawyers, workers in practical science and literature, have already made their mark and taken high positions. In looking around on the assemblage, and mentally noting what the men composing it are and have done, it was impossible not be impressed with the evidence presented of the value and importance of the higher education; and this independently of what was spoken, was sufficient to give to the gathering a great value and significance.

Besides those more immediately connected with McGill, there were present the Rev. Dr. Cook, the Rev. Dr. MacVicar, the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, the Rev. Canon Henderson, as Principals of four of the Affiliated Colleges, on behalf of which Dr. Cook responded. The University of Bishop's College was represented by its Principal, the Rev. Dr. Lobley. Laval University was represented by the Hon. Dr. Chauveau; and the University of Toronto by Dr. Wilson. All of these gentlemen spoke in terms of friendly greeting on behalf of their respective universities.

The Visitor of the University sent the expression of his regret that he was unable to be present, and the Honourable the Superintendent of Education also intimated his good will and his regret that he was unable to attend.

Among the older and more eminent graduates who were unable to attend and sent cordial letters of apology, were Dr. Workman, of Toronto, a medical graduate of 1835; the Honorable Alexander Morris, a graduate in arts of 1849, and formerly one of the governors of the College; the Honorable J. J. C. Abbott and the Rev. Dr. Douglas.

It was stated that the session of 1882'3 will be the fiftieth year of the existence of McGill University, and it is proposed to celebrate this anniversary, and to prepare in connection with it a sketch of the history of the College, for circulation among its friends and graduates.

The evening was enlivened with college songs admirably sung by a choir of graduates. Two of the songs were original compositions; and through the kindness of Mr. G. B. Burland, copies printed on elegantly illuminated cards were supplied to all the guests.

—Montreal Witness.

